

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 23, 2002

Dear Conferee:

We urge you to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas development in the conference committee energy report. Drilling in this pristine and unique national treasure should be rejected for at least four reasons:

1. Drilling in ANWR is a legislative poison pill that will kill the entire Energy bill;
2. Drilling in ANWR has lost public support from the majority of Americans;
3. Drilling in ANWR is a lousy precedent that industry will use to invade every other National Wildlife Refuge that might have some oil or gas in it; and
4. Drilling in ANWR leaves oil imports virtually undented.

The Senate has made clear that there will be no energy bill if it allows development of the Arctic Refuge, and the House only narrowly defeated an amendment to prevent any drilling in this pristine ecosystem. Polls conducted over the past year have consistently shown that the majority of the American public is opposed to opening one of our nation's last truly wild places to development. Allowing oil and gas development in the Arctic Refuge would overturn a 35-year history of refuge protection dating back to the 1966 National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act. Oil production has consistently been deemed incompatible with the mission of a wildlife refuge and contamination in refuges with oil and gas production has been well documented by the Fish and Wildlife Service, as in their 2001 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Contaminant Assessment. A General Accounting Office report confirms that no non-drainage oil or gas leases have been issued for federally owned mineral rights in a National Wildlife Refuge since the passage of that Act. Moreover, according to the report, oil and gas leasing on refuge lands has been prohibited with few exceptions by the Department of the Interior since at least 1947.

Development of the Arctic Refuge will not solve any of our energy security problems. The United States Geological Survey's estimates of economically recoverable oil suggest that the amount of oil in the Refuge would do little to offset our foreign imports. We will be 55 percent dependent on foreign oil before we drill, and we will be 55 percent dependent after we drill. Moreover, the major oil companies are moving away from any new development in the North Slope, citing their doubts that any new fields would be big enough for their investment.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the only land on the North Slope Alaska protected from development but it is not the only option for new oil discovery. Phillips Petroleum has discovered promising fields in the Naval Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA). The United States Geological Survey has recently reassessed the oil potential of the NPRA and increased their 1980 mean estimate of 2.1 billion barrels of oil to 9.3 billion barrels of oil. Furthermore, the Department of the Interior had a new lease auction for the NPRA on June 3, leasing 60 tracts and raising \$63.8 million.

The Arctic Refuge is a unique part of America and should be protected not exploited. We gain little from allowing oil and gas development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge but we lose the only intact mountain-to-sea ecosystem left in America. We urge you to protect this treasure for generations to come by omitting any language that would allow oil and gas exploration or development in the Arctic Refuge from the conference report.

Yours sincerely,

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Gary L. Ackerman | 38. Luis Gutierrez | 75. Grace Napolitano |
| 2. Thomas H. Allen | 39. Jane Harman | 76. Richard Neal |
| 3. Robert E. Andrews | 40. Alcee L. Hastings | 77. John W. Olver |
| 4. Brian Baird | 41. Maurice D. Hinchey | 78. Frank Pallone |
| 5. John E. Baldacci | 42. Joe Hoeffel | 79. William J. Pascrell |
| 6. Tammy Baldwin | 43. Rush Holt | 80. Donald M. Payne |
| 7. Thomas M. Barrett | 44. Mike Honda | 81. Nancy Pelosi |
| 8. Shelley Berkley | 45. Darlene Hooley | 82. David Price |
| 9. Earl Blumenauer | 46. Jay Inslee | 83. Lynn N. Rivers |
| 10. David E. Bonior | 47. Steven Israel | 84. Steven R. Rothman |
| 11. Corrine Brown | 48. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. | 85. Martin Sabo |
| 12. Sherrod Brown | 49. Patrick Kennedy | 86. Loretta Sanchez |
| 13. Lois Capps | 50. Dale E. Kildee | 87. Bernard Sanders |
| 14. Michael Capuano | 51. Gerald D. Kleczka | 88. Thomas Sawyer |
| 15. Benjamin Cardin | 52. Dennis J. Kucinich | 89. Janice D. Schakowsky |
| 16. Julia Carson | 53. Jim Langevin | 90. Adam Schiff |
| 17. William Lacy Clay, Jr. | 54. Barbara Lee | 91. Jose Serrano |
| 18. Joseph Crowley | 55. Sander M. Levin | 92. Louise Slaughter |
| 19. John Conyers, Jr. | 56. John Lewis | 93. Adam Smith |
| 20. William Coyne | 57. Zoe Lofgren | 94. Vic Snyder |
| 21. Danny K. Davis | 58. Bill Luther | 95. Hilda L. Solis |
| 22. Jim Davis | 59. Stephen Lynch | 96. John M. Spratt, Jr. |
| 23. Susan Davis | 60. Carolyn B. Maloney | 97. Pete Stark |
| 24. Peter A. DeFazio | 61. James H. Maloney | 98. Ellen O. Tauscher |
| 25. Diana DeGette | 62. Edward J. Markey | 99. John F. Tierney |
| 26. William Delahunt | 63. Jim Matheson | 100. Mark Udall |
| 27. Rosa DeLauro | 64. Robert Matsui | 101. Nydia M. Velázquez |
| 28. Lloyd Doggett | 65. Carolyn McCarthy | 102. Maxine Waters |
| 29. Eliot Engel | 66. Karen McCarthy | 103. Diane Watson |
| 30. Anna G. Eshoo | 67. Betty McCollum | 104. Melvin L. Watt |
| 31. Bob Etheridge | 68. Jim McDermott | 105. Henry A. Waxman |
| 32. Lane Evans | 69. James P. McGovern | 106. Anthony Weiner |
| 33. Sam Farr | 70. Michael R. McNulty | 107. Robert Wexler |
| 34. Bob Filner | 71. Martin T. Meehan | 108. Lynn Woolsey |
| 35. Harold Ford | 72. Robert Menendez | 109. David Wu |
| 36. Barney Frank | 73. James P. Moran | 110. Albert Wynn |
| 37. Martin Frost | 74. Jerrold Nadler | |